



# Environmental Bulletin

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*from the Savannah River Site*

## **Record of Decision for the P-Area Burning/Rubble Pit available for review**

The United States Department of Energy (DOE), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) have selected the remedial approach for Savannah River Site's (SRS) P-Area Burning/Rubble Pit (PBRP) operable unit (OU). A 45-day public comment period for the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan and the associated draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit modification was held from February 28, 2002 to April 13, 2002.

DOE, the EPA, and SCDHEC have determined that the preferred remedial action consists of the following:  
for the PBRP source unit – An engineered soil cover system with passive soil vapor extraction devices (Baraballs™) and institutional controls including long term site maintenance.

for groundwater – Continued sampling and analysis of existing monitoring wells with institutional controls as long as the groundwater concentrations exceed regulatory standards.

The PBRP, was a shallow, unlined excavation measuring approximately 30 ft wide, 200 ft long, and the depth ranges from 8 ft in the western end to 11 ft in the eastern end. It was used from 1951 to 1973 for periodic burning of combustible wastes such as wood, cardboard, paper, plastics, rubber, rags, oils and organic liquids of unknown origins. Burning in PBRP was discontinued in 1973. After 1973, the pit continued to receive inert debris such as construction materials until it reached capacity in 1978, at which time it was covered with soil to grade. No removal actions have been performed at the unit. The primary source material still remains in place; however, no Principal Threat Source Material is present in the pit.

The water table is approximately 23 ft below land

surface, and 12 ft below the base of the pit. Groundwater has been locally impacted by the pit. However, detections are low and sporadic, with no definable contaminant plume.

The remedial decision is documented in the Record of Decision document. This document includes a responsiveness summary that addresses public comments. DOE has worked with SCDHEC and EPA to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

Copies of the Record of Decision are available in the administrative record. The administrative record is available in the information repositories listed below:

- DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC; and
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC.

Hard copies of the Record of Decision are available at the following:

- Reese Library at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA; and
- Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA.

For additional information, contact Jim Moore at the address listed below.

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## The SRS Environmental Bulletin

For more information on this or other  
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